

of unaddressed concerns involving financial privacy and commercial use of personal financial information.

Two of the bills we are introducing today deal with abuses in an area that has come to epitomize predatory financial practices—the problems of high cost mortgage refinancing, home equity loans and home improvement loans. We have witnessed the growth of an entire industry of high-cost “subprime” commercial lenders that systematically target homeowners with low incomes or damaged credit for deceptive offers of high-cost credit. These practices seek to place borrowers more deeply in debt, strip away their accumulated equity and force many homes into foreclosure. Our bill, the “Predatory Lending Consumer Protection Act of 2001,” would expand the protections in current federal law to prevent loan packing, mortgage flipping, excessive fee financing and other practices that make abusive loans profitable. A second bill, the “Equal Credit Enhancement and Neighborhood Protection Act of 2001,” addresses the fair lending issues involved in predatory mortgage lending. It would add new federal protections to combat the discriminatory steering of racial groups to high cost loans and reverse redlining in subprime credit, and it would increase mortgage reporting requirements to help identify high-cost loans and patterns of discriminatory lending.

Two of the bills also address another area of widespread abuse—consumer credit cards. U.S. News reported earlier this week that Americans now charge more on credit cards than they spend in cash and that the average cardholder now carries a balance of more than \$4,400. The bill entitled “Consumer Credit Card Protection Amendments of 2001” addresses a variety of abuses that are common to most credit cards—inadequate disclosure of interest rates and terms, hidden fees and charges, inappropriate solicitations to minors, and penalties for practically every consumer action, including paying late, not making the minimum payment and even paying off monthly balances in full. The second bill, the “Credit Card Predatory Practices Prevention Act of 2001” addresses more systematic fraud in subprime credit card solicitations which target people with low incomes or damaged credit. It provides more specific strict prohibitions than current law against abusive sales practices, bait and switch tactics and billing schemes intended to generate interest and penalty payments.

Another important bill addresses the growing problem of “payday” loans, which involved short term extensions of credit at annual interest rates of 450 percent to 600 percent. Since payday lenders use consumers’ personal checks to secure credit advances, they hold enormous leverage over the consumer in collecting debts by threatening the loss of check writing privileges and even prosecution for writing bad checks. The “Payday Loan Consumer Protection Amendments of 2001” would end this practice by prohibiting any extension of credit based solely on a check or other instruments drawn on federally insured accounts.

Automobile leasing is another area of growing consumer abuse that is addressed by the legislation. The potential abuse in complex

lease transactions begins with the misrepresentation of lease payments and terms in lease advertisements. Today’s lease advertisements have the single purpose of enticing consumers into dealerships where they can be confined into signing almost any

Additional bills seek to update and modernize two of our nation’s most important consumer protection statutes. Key protections of the Truth in Lending Act, stated in dollar amounts in the late 1960s, have not been updated and, consequently, have been eroded by inflation and changing market practices. The “Truth in Lending Modernization Act of 2001” updates these provisions and adds new protections to assure that TILA’s important rescission and civil liability protections remain available for consumers. The “Truth in Savings Enhancement Amendments of 2001” extend the civil liability protections of the Truth in Savings Act, which will sunset on September 30, 2001, and make other changes to strengthen enforcement against deceptive practices in connection with consumer savings accounts.

Let me briefly describe the final three bills we are introducing. The “Unsolicited Loan Check Consumer Protection Act of 2001” would prohibit use of negotiable or “live” checks in credit solicitations. These solicitations unfairly encourage desperate consumers to take on unaffordable debt and raise unnecessary liability concerns for lost or stolen checks. The “Consumer Affordable Transaction Account Act of 2001” would require all insured banks, thrifts and credit unions to advertise and provide low-cost basic checking account services for lower-income consumers without banking accounts. The bill builds upon the basic banking account programs already required by New York and other states. My final bill, the “Consumer Banking Services Cost Assessment Act of 2001,” extends authority for the Federal Reserve Board’s annual survey of banking service fees and expands the survey to include credit unions and all fees associated with credit cards.

Mr. Speaker, recent reports indicate that American consumers are drowning in a sea of debt. While family income has stagnated, household debt has risen by more than one-third and the equity families hold in their homes is lower than it was a decade ago. These conditions create desperate consumers and encourage abusive credit practices. And the conditions will only worsen if our economy falters.

With the Truth in Lending Act of 1968, Congress recognized that consumers have a basic “right to know” the full and accurate costs of all financial services. The complexity of today’s financial marketplace now demands that consumers have new rights and greater protections against unfair and abusive practices. The eleven bills that we are introducing today offer a broad program of reform that can restore consumer protection and customer service as the guiding principles of financial services policy.

The meager attention the Congress has given to consumer protection over the last several years has been the result of Democratic prodding. We will continue to prod until these important issues get the attention they deserve. I urge the support of my colleagues for this important legislation.

THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA,
REPORT TO THE NATION 2000

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the distinct pleasure to join you and a group of young leaders from the Boy Scouts of America as they presented their 2000 report to the U.S. House of Representatives. I was honored to meet with these young leaders and heroes. To further record their visit to the Capitol and efforts of the past year, I am submitting a copy of their report to follow my remarks for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

REPORT TO THE NATION 2000, BOY SCOUTS OF
AMERICA

In 2000, the Boy Scouts of America celebrated its 90th anniversary and the addition of its 100-millionth youth member. Nearly five million youth had the opportunity to participate in the programs of the BSA during the past year, thanks to the efforts of more than 1.48 million committed adult volunteers. All of this is made possible through support from tens of thousands of chartered organizations and community groups throughout the nation.

For our youth members and participants, Scouting is about outdoor adventure and having fun with friends. But Scouting is much more. Scouting is a values-based program designed to instill self-discipline, self-confidence, self-reliance, and self-worth—qualities that last a lifetime.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

The Boy Scouts of America has long been recognized as the nation’s foremost leader in values-based youth development. Though we tend to view our movement through statistics that highlight our strengths and accomplishments, the real focus of Scouting is the powerful impact it has on a single youth and his or her family. In a time of declining ethics and shifting morals, we remain steadfast in our purpose: to instill positive values in young people that enable them to mature into adults of strong character.

OUR PROGRAMS

Cub Scouting. As a result of a national marketing program, Cub Scouting, for boys ages 7 to 10, served 2,114,420 youth members in 2000. Enhancement of age-appropriate programming has resulted in greater opportunity for youth to participate in Cub Scouting’s contemporary family activities. Reflecting the increased emphasis on and expansion of day, resident, pack, and family camping opportunities, more than 41 percent of Cub Scouts participated in an outdoor activity.

Boy Scouting. Membership in Boy Scouting, for 11- to 17-year-olds, reached 1,003,691 in 2000. Eagle Scout, the highest rank a Scout or Venturer can achieve, was attained by 40,029 young men. The number of Scouts who experienced a long-term camping expedition reached its greatest level ever in 2000 with 58.2 percent of all Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts participating in these educational outdoor adventures.

Venturing. This high-adventure program for young men and women ages 14 to 20 has

enjoyed continuous growth since its introduction in 1998. Built around an advancement program with the Venturing Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards, Venturing grew to 233,858 members—a 15.7 percent increase. The number of Venturing crews increased 12.1 percent in 2000 to 17,684.

Learning for Life. Participation in this classroom- and workplace-based character education program continued to increase in 2000, growing 3.2 percent to 1,589,988 participants. More than 17,000 organizations nationwide used Learning for Life to help young people develop life skills, positive attitudes, values, and career awareness. New Jersey selected Learning for Life as a program of merit to be used in that state's new character education initiative.

Scoutreach. Scouting's coordinated effort to reach out to more urban and rural young people focused on the Hispanic market in 2000. New Spanish marketing materials and training aids were developed along with a number of bilingual publications designed to make Scouting programs more accessible to Hispanic youth and their families. The esteemed Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award was bestowed upon 148 volunteers—the largest number of recipients in the history of the award.

AWARDS

The National Court of Honor presents the prestigious Silver buffalo Award to distinguished citizens for exemplary national service to youth. In 2000, recipients of Scouting's highest commendation included Charles L. Bowerman; M. Anthony Burns; Robert M. Gates; Roger R. Hemminghaus; Louise Mandrell; C. Dudley Pratt Jr.; Thomas E. Reddin; Frank G. Rubino, M.D.; Alfred S. Warren; Togo D. West Jr.; and Edward E. Whitacre Jr.

The BSA's National Court of Honor awarded the Honor Medal With Crossed Palms to six Scouts and Scouters who demonstrated unusual heroism and extraordinary skill or resourcefulness in saving or attempting to save a life at extreme risk to self. Other awards for lifesaving and meritorious action were presented to 234 Scouts and Scouters.

The Young American Awards recognizes excellence in the achievements of young people ages 15 to 25. The 2000 recipients were Julius D. Jackson, Carl F. Regelmann, Svati Singla, Alison L. Smith, and Christopher K. Sokolov.

AMERICA'S PROMISE—THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH

In 1997, the Boy Scouts of America pledged 200 million hours of service to America by our youth membership by the end of 2000. We are pleased to announce that we have surpassed that objective by completing more than 214 million hours. As part of this effort, members of Scouting's national honor society, the Order of the Arrow, performed more than 2,000 hours of service in Yosemite National Park. Scouts in New Orleans participated in Good Turn fairs in which they performed services for the community including removing graffiti and restoring playgrounds. The BSA's involvement in this worthwhile effort represents its commitment of service to our nation as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Strong leadership has always been a hallmark of Scouting. In this tradition, this past year our National Executive Board selected Roy L. Williams as the Chief Scout Executive. In May, Williams will introduce a strategic plan for 2002–2006 that targets five issues critical to the future of the Scouting movement. Those issues are traditional

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

membership and unit growth, total financial development and stewardship, marketing and strategic positioning, leadership, and Scoutreach. By addressing these key issues, the BSA will ensure that its values-driven programs will be around for generations to come, and will continue to reach out to share America's values with today's youth, tomorrow's leaders.

ROY L. WILLIAMS,
Chief Scout Executive.
MILTON H. WARD,
President.

TRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HOME HEALTH AND HOSPICE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise before you today to recognize a group of people committed to protecting and enhancing human dignity. Community Home Health and Hospice, located in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, is a private nonprofit organization that has been serving patients throughout Genesee County and other surrounding communities for 20 years.

Since 1981, Community Home Health and Hospice has been the only local community based program providing health care to homebound patients and home care for those facing the end of life. They provide physicians, nurses, home health aides, social workers, chaplains, and many volunteers who selflessly donate their time and resources to give physical, emotional, and spiritual support to patients as well as their families. They also supply physical, occupational, and speech therapy, dietary counseling, transportation, and bereavement support.

Community Home is licensed by the State of Michigan and is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation for Health Care Organizations. They are also certified by Medicare, Medicaid, and Blue Cross Blue Shield. Their building, a \$3.5 million 19,000 square facility, ensures that the terminally ill receive comprehensive, cost-effective healthcare, and that they are granted the opportunity to live the remainder of their lives in a familiar and comfortable home-like setting.

Mr. Speaker, Community Home fully understands the hardships families face when a loved one nears the end of their life. In many situations, patients and their families would prefer to face the end of life at home, and the decision to seek outside care is truly difficult. However, I am happy that there is a place like Community Home Health and Hospice, where they may live in comfort and dignity.

THE HAMMOND SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to announce that the Hammond

Sports Hall of Fame's 15th Annual Induction Banquet will be held tonight, March 15, 2001, at the Hammond Civic Center, in Hammond, Indiana. Eleven individuals, all of whom attended high school in Hammond, Indiana, will be inducted into the Hammond Sports Hall of Fame. The new members of the Hall of Fame include: Mike Bradburn, Bob Bradtke, Allison Buell, Donald Clark, Ray Cross, Rudy T. Folta, Terry Irk, Hal Morris, Kurt Nondorf, Frank P. Staucet, and Bob Wilson, Sr.

Mike Bradburn, a current resident of Chester, California, graduated from Hammond Morton High School in 1963. While at Morton, Bradburn was an outstanding athlete, participating in football, wrestling, and track and field. In football, what this speedy, hard-driving fullback lacked in size, he made up for in grit and determination. He played on the Governors' 1961 state championship squad and earned all-state honors the following season. He continued his football career at Northwestern University, from where he graduated in 1957.

An outstanding basketball and baseball player at Bishop Noll, Bob Bradtke graduated in 1956. Prior to moving to Lansing, Illinois, where he currently resides, Bradtke coached at Bishop Noll, Whiting and Gavit. As a basketball player at Bishop Noll, he was an all-state guard that teamed up with Oscar Robertson and fellow Hammond Sports Hall of Famer Frank Radovich on the Indiana all-star squad that played the Kentucky all-stars. On the baseball diamond, Bradtke played virtually all positions. He continued his career in college as a basketball player at Notre Dame, where he was a two-year letter winner before graduating in 1960.

Current resident of Hammond, Indiana, Allison Buell, became the first female athlete from a Hammond high school to qualify for the state finals in a field event. Buell was an outstanding high jumper and long jumper at Clark High School, where she graduated in 1988. While in college, Buell competed in the high jump at Cornell University, before transferring to Columbia College, from where she graduated with honors in 1996. As a junior, this Clark valedictorian placed third in the high jump at the state meet, then returned home to help the Lady Pioneers softball team win a sectional title the next day.

The late Donald L. Clark had an outstanding wrestling and football career. After graduating from Clark High School in 1952, Clark attended Purdue University and joined the wrestling team. In 1957, Clark graduated from Purdue with academic honors he then embarked on an outstanding career in education and coaching. As wrestling coach at Hammond High, he directed the Wildcats to back-to-back state championships in 1962 and 1963.

Longtime Hammond, Indiana, resident Ray Cross, will also be inducted into the Hammond Sports Hall of Fame. While at Hammond High, Cross played running back and defensive back on their 1960 state football championship team, earning Chicagoland All-Star Team honors, as well as a scholarship to West New Mexico University. Cross was a versatile player and signed as a free agent with the Atlanta Falcons of the National Football League, but his career was cut short by a knee injury. He then returned home, where he embarked on a